Assignment of Land.

12. The area of land under occupation increased by 9,740 acres, mainly as a result of registry under the Puduval and special rules. The capital receipts from the sale proceeds of Government lands amounted only to Rs. 4·43 lakhs. The revenue under this head has been gradually declining from 1103 when it was Rs. 5·86 lakhs and 1104 when it was Rs. 5·47 lakhs. This is partly due to the diminishing extent of fresh lands available for cultivation and partly to the economic depression prevailing in the country. 1,013 applications or seventy five per cent. of the total number of applications from members of the landless classes were disposed of, 617 acres being registered in the names of 614 applicants. An area of 15,133 acres has been ear-marked for assignment to these classes, out of which an extent of 2,918 acres has been assigned to them till the end of 1105. A further extent of 2,615 acres has also been assigned to them from outside the ear-marked area. Pulayas, Sambavars, Parayas, Kuravas, Kanikars and Hill Arayas have come in for the largest share of the 5,533 acres already registered. An area of 234 acres was registered in favour of Ex-War Service men on concessional terms. The Neriamangalam-Pallivasal road having been completed, steps are being taken to survey and sub-divide into suitable blocks for assignment the lands on either side of it; and, in the meantime, the unauthorised occupation of these lands by speculative land-grabbers is being prohibited. The rules for the assignment of town lands have been revised. Provision has also been made therein to extend under certain conditions the benefit of the lower rates of assignment now fixed to those who have obtained registries under the rules of 1921.

Minor Irrigation.

13. In my address last year, I told you that the Government were appointing a small committee of officials and non-officials to investigate the problem of minor irrigation in the State and to suggest measures for its proper solution. The committe was constituted in the middle of March last. It has been requested (i) to investigate the extent of the minor irrigation facilities available in the different parts of the State and to submit proposals for their conservation, improvement and proper maintenance; (ii) to consider whether a separate agency should be appointed for the execution, maintenance and control of irrigation works, and, if so, what that agency should be; and (iii) to submit proposals where necessary to amend the existing Irrigation Regulation, III of 1072, and the rules thereunder in order to facilitate their pratical application. The Government expect to receive the report of the committee by the end of Meenam 1106.

Co-operation.

14. The year began with 1,738 co-operative societies and ended with 1,806 societies. For some years the Department has been pursuing the policy of consolidating the movement and has been intent more on the